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General Assembly

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Sixty-third session

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its twenty-fourth special session*

Geneva, 17-20 March 2008

Opening of the session

1. The session was opened by Mr. Petko Draganov (Bulgaria), President of the Trade and Development Board.

2. Opening statements were made by Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD; the representative of Brazil, on behalf of the G77 and China; the representative of Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union; the representative of Chad, on behalf of the African Group; the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the Asian Group; the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC); the representative of Bangladesh, on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Group; the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Group D; the representative of the United States, on behalf of Japan, the United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand (JUSSCANNZ), as well as Israel and Turkey; the representative of Thailand; the representative of China; the representative of Mexico; and the representative of Belarus.[1]

I. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 1)

3. The Board adopted the provisional agenda contained in document TD/B (S-XXIV)/1 (see annex I).

* The present document is an advance version of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its twenty-fourth special session, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 17-20 March 2008. It will appear in final form, together with the reports of the forty-third executive session, the forty-fourth executive session and the fifty-fifth session of the Board, as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 15* (A/63/15).

[1] Statements provided to the secretariat will be posted on the UNCTAD website.

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II. Organization of the work of the twelfth session of the Conference

(Agenda item 2)

Selection by drawing of lot of the country that will head the seating pattern at the twelfth session of the Conference

4. In accordance with established practice, Sudan was drawn by lot to be first in the alphabetical order to be used for seating arrangements at UNCTAD XII.

III. Substantive preparations for the twelfth session of the Conference

(Agenda item 3)

5. The representative of Ghana gave a presentation on the preparations for UNCTAD XII. He updated the Board on the host country's preparations concerning the conference facilities, hotel accommodations, transportation, visas, health services, security and publicity.

6. The President of the Trade and Development Board presented to the session the report of the Preparatory Committee for the twelfth session of the Conference, contained in document TD/B(S-XXIV)/L.2. He also presented reports on the two hearings with civil society, contained in documents TD(XII)/PC/2 and TD(XII)/PC/3. The Board took note of all three reports.

7. The President of the Trade and Development Board said that he had no negotiating text from the Preparatory Committee for the twelfth session of the Conference to present to the session because negotiations were still ongoing. He said that the Preparatory Committee was in crisis mode because of the lack of progress in the text, and called on member States to continue to make every effort to see that the negotiations progressed at a faster pace.

IV. Matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary bodies

(Agenda item 4)

A. Report of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, twelfth session

8. Ambassador Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja (Indonesia), Chair of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, presented the report of the commission, which met on 7 and 8 February 2008 in Geneva. The Board took note of the report, as contained in document TD/B/COM.1/92.

B. Report of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, twelfth session

9. Mr. Dmitry Godunov (Russian Federation) presented the report of the commission, which met on 12 and 13 February 2008 in Geneva. The Board took note of the report, as contained in document TD/B/COM.2/82.

C. Report of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, twelfth session

10. Mr. El Mostapha Ait Amor (Morocco), Chair of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, presented the report of the commission, which met on 4 and 5 February 2008 in Geneva. The Board took note of the report, as contained in document TD/B/COM.3/86.

V. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

(Agenda item 5)

A. Preparations for the review by the twelfth session of the Conference of the lists of States annexed to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

11. The Board approved Kazakhstan's and Montenegro's membership of the Trade and Development Board.

12. The Board approved the addition of Estonia, Montenegro and Kazakhstan to list D of the lists of States referred to in General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX). In the case of Kazakhstan, Group D requested that the application be approved with the understanding that its decision would be without prejudice to the composition of the five United Nations regional groups for the purpose of the distribution of posts within the United Nations General Assembly and its bodies in New York. The Board accepted the changes as requested by Group D.

B. Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

13. There were no additional intergovernmental bodies for consideration by the Board.

C. Designation of and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

14. There were no additional non-governmental organizations for consideration by the Board.

D. Provisional calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2008 and draft schedule of meetings for 2009

15. The Chief of the Conference Services and Logistics Section of the UNCTAD secretariat presented the provisional calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2008 and draft schedule of meetings for 2009, as contained in document TD/B (S-XXIV)/CRP.1, which was approved by the Trade and Development Board.

VI. Adoption of the report of the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 7)

16. The Board authorized the Rapporteur to prepare the report on its twenty-fourth special session under the authority of the President.

Annex I

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Organization of the work of the twelfth session of the Conference:
   (a) Selection by drawing of lot of the country that will head the seating pattern at the twelfth session of the Conference
   (b) Outstanding organizational matters
3. Substantive preparations for the twelfth session of the Conference

   Report of the Preparatory Committee
4. Matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary bodies:
   (a) Report of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, twelfth session
   (b) Report of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, twelfth session
   (c) Report of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, twelfth session
5. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
   (a) Preparations for the review by the twelfth session of the Conference of the lists of States annexed to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)
   (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board
   (c) Designation of and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board
   (d) Provisional calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2008 and draft schedule of meetings for 2009
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Trade and Development Board

Annex II

Attendance[a]

1. Representatives from the following States members of UNCTAD attended the session:

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Austria
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bhutan
Botswana
Bulgaria
Cameroon
Chad
Chile
China
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Egypt
El Salvador
Estonia
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guinea
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Madagascar
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Mauritius
Mauritania
Mexico
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Paraguay
Philippines
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sudan
Swaziland
Syrian Arab Republic

[a] For the list of participants, see TD/B(S-XXIV)Inf.1.

Thailand
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

2. The following observers were represented at the session:

Holy See

Kazakhstan

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

African Union

Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation

European Community

Organisation internationale de la francophonie

4. The following United Nations Agency was represented at the session:

International Trade Centre

5. The following specialized agencies were represented at the session:

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

World Trade Organization

6. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General category

Cameroon Organization for Promoting International Economic Cooperation

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers)

Village Suisse ONG (VSONG)

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom